

STATINTL

# Ex-Envoy Charges Gag on Panama

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

By SAM FOGG  
United Press International

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7—Reports have been circulating for some time in

Washington that the State Department and a Congressional committee have given Joseph S. Farland, the last United States ambassador to Panama, the brushoff. The State Department denies it.

But today Farland, who resigned the post five months ago to return to private life, said the reports were true.

He also said that if the State Department or Congressmen refuse him permission to tell what he knows he might take his story to the newspapers.

Farland said in an interview that since his return to the United States in September he was never "de-briefed" or consulted by any State Department officials until last week when he had a 15-minute interview with Thomas C. Mann, assistant secretary of state for Latin-American affairs.

He said he later had an impromptu meeting with another government official whom he did not identify.

"This is just an unbelievable situation," commented Farland, a former agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He said that when he returned to Washington after serving as U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic in 1960, he had undergone "de-briefing"—the routine in which diplomats give the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and others their personal views on their last assignment.

But after submitting his



Joseph S. Farland

resignation as ambassador to Panama, Farland said, he spent about a month at the State Department but had no discussions with any key officials.

[Farland's comments confirm reports by World-Telegram columnist Henry J. Taylor on Jan. 24 and Feb. 3.]

Asked about Farland's charge,

a State Department spokesman told United Press International that the former diplomat returned to Washington on Aug. 30 "and was on consultation in Washington for a period of time after that."

The department added, "He was de-briefed during that time by the officers in the department who handle Panamanian and Panama Canal affairs. To the best of our knowledge, he obtained appointments with everyone he had requested."

The spokesman said an ambassador who returns normally is expected to take the initiative in making appointments to air any information or views he may have.

Farland left Panama before the crisis there between Panama and the United States came to a boil over the display of the U.S. and Panamanian flags and American Canal Zone policies generally. No successor has yet been named.

Farland, who now lives in the nearby Virginia hunt country, also has taken issue with his treatment by a House for-

Continued